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Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN MAY 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in May was 197,223 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,362 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month but 8% below the rate for May 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased dramatically in May to $1.355 per pound from $1.237 per pound in April, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased several times during the first half of May before declining in stages to a price range that was slightly lower than that at the beginning of the month. The price range began the month at 94–96 cents per pound. On May 2, the price range increased to 96–98 cents per pound; on May 9, it increased to 99–101 cents per pound; and on May 11, the price reached $1.05 to $1.07 per pound. On May 16, the UBC price began a downward slide when the price range decreased to $1.00 to $1.02 per pound. On May 23, the price range decreased further to 97–99 cents per pound, and on May 31, it decreased to 93–95 cents per pound.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased significantly in June to $1.192 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs decreased throughout most of June, continuing the downward slide that began in mid-May. On June 1, the price range decreased to 89–91 cents per pound; on June 6, it decreased to 86–88 cents per pound; on June 13, it decreased to 81–83 cents per pound; on June 16, it decreased to 80–82 cents per pound; and on June 20, it fell to 79–81 cents per pound. On June 27, the price range increased a penny to 80–82 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery[2]			Imports for consumption			Total new supply[3]	Total stocks, end of period[4]
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005[p]	2,481	1,900	1,120	3,020	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,400	1,430
2005:									
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-May	1,038	811	475	1,290	1,630	499	2,130	4,450	1,520
2006:									
January	197	159	87	246	348	97	445	888	1,490
February	179	146	85	231	247	87	333	743	1,680
March	198	153	92	245	289	104	393	836	1,480
April	190	145	90	234	353	103	456	880	1,480
May	197	161	90	251	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	961	764	444	1,210	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

[p]Preliminary. NA Not available.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

[3]Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

[4]Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP[1]

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2005[p]	1,740	1,260	812	722	1,010	943	98	87	6	6	3,660	3,020
2005:												
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-May	741	535	329	292	449	420	41	36	(2)	(2)	1,560	1,290
2006:												
January	138	101	66	59	84	79	8	7	(2)	(2)	297	246
February	133	97	64	56	75	70	8	7	(2)	(2)	280	231
March	144	105	66	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	298	245
April	140	101	64	57	74	70	8	7	(2)	(2)	287	234
May	143	104	65	58	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	304	251
January-May	698	508	325	288	401	376	40	35	2	2	1,470	1,210

[p]Preliminary.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MAY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	119,000	143,000	86,600	104,000
Integrated aluminum companies	64,900	64,900	57,500	57,500
Independent mill fabricators	73,000	87,600	68,300	82,000
Foundries	6,650	7,980	5,850	7,020
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	264,000	304,000	219,000	251,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4

PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MAY 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May[2]	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts[3]	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	25,600	66,900	68,200	24,400	313,000	313,000
Can stock clippings	1,230	20,600	20,900	970	96,700	97,800
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,570	24,600	24,600	7,630	127,000	127,000
Casting	783	7,290	7,190	878	34,500	35,400
Borings and turnings	7,480	12,000	12,500	7,020	57,400	58,200
Dross and skimmings	3,760	36,500	36,500	3,790	179,000	180,000
Total new scrap	46,500	168,000	170,000	44,700	808,000	811,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,080	16,200	15,600	5,710	78,200	78,300
Used extrusion	137	295	295	137	1,470	1,470
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,850	59,600	59,500	1,950	292,000	291,000
Other wrought products	3,930	5,900	5,900	3,930	30,700	30,700
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,840	12,100	12,100	3,870	59,200	59,100
Total old scrap	14,800	94,200	93,400	15,600	461,000	460,000
Sweated pig	289	703	703	289	3,600	3,600
Total all classes	61,600	263,000	264,000	60,600	1,270,000	1,280,000

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Includes revised data from previous month(s).

[3]Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5

ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006[1, 2]

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May[3]	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,970	1,800	1,320	5,450	6,460	6,450
380 and variations	2,800	15,500	15,700	2,600	75,900	77,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,020	2,090	1,940	1,160	9,500	9,350
No. 319 and variations	3,670	7,310	7,500	3,480	32,200	31,200
F-132 alloy and variations	673	1,940	1,770	844	8,810	8,860
Al-Zn alloys	106	179	168	117	859	839
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	229	229
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	1,630	1,630
Other[4]	6,930	5,180	5,930	6,180	28,600	27,900
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	9,430	19,100	19,300	9,300	99,200	99,300
Total all alloys	29,700	53,500	53,900	29,200	263,000	263,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	8,300	XX	XX	49,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,200	XX	XX	12,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	451	XX	XX	3,840	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot[5]	XX	42,500	XX	XX	198,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

[1]Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[3]Includes revised data from previous months.

[4]Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

[5]No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
Country	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April
Argentina	2,490	17,300	6	26	--	--	2,500	17,300
Australia	5,510	17,200	4	34	--	268	5,520	17,500
Bahrain	10,800	20,000	1,240	4,890	--	--	12,000	24,900
Belgium	11	28	442	2,160	--	--	453	2,190
Brazil	12,300	51,100	2,150	8,580	159	178	14,600	59,800
Canada	177,000	669,000	45,400	179,000	24,000	108,000	247,000	957,000
China	2,900	14,200	13,000	42,200	--	2	15,900	56,400
France	50	154	485	1,880	--	18	535	2,050
Germany	35	2,900	9,970	40,500	28	117	10,000	43,500
Hungary	--	--	176	701	--	--	176	701
Italy	82	146	247	971	--	--	330	1,120
Japan	40	113	1,330	6,380	93	241	1,460	6,730
Korea, Republic of	--	72	315	928	--	(2)	315	1,000
Mexico	118	319	1,830	6,480	8,650	40,100	10,600	46,900
Netherlands	50	309	97	582	--	92	147	982
Norway	6	6	(2)	78	--	--	6	84
Russia	108,000	243,000	3,950	12,600	--	2,670	112,000	258,000
South Africa	10,300	35,600	4,550	18,800	--	--	14,900	54,400
Spain	62	110	146	413	--	--	208	523
Sweden	--	612	283	1,760	31	31	314	2,400
Switzerland	55	1,100	433	1,740	--	--	488	2,840
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	6,830	36,600	3	3	--	--	6,830	36,600
United Kingdom	321	29,400	746	1,500	15	878	1,080	31,800
Venezuela	12,500	52,700	1,390	6,100	319	875	14,200	59,600
Other	3,570	19,400	14,400	52,600	2,900	12,900	20,900	84,900
Total	353,000	1,240,000	103,000	391,000	36,200	167,000	492,000	1,790,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2006[1]

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April	April	January-April
Australia	10	60	151	449	23	33	183	542
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	71	426	489	2,330	39	39	599	2,790
Brazil	14	64	553	1,690	62	112	629	1,860
Canada	10,300	46,100	38,700	160,000	11,600	43,200	60,500	249,000
China	188	1,350	3,060	9,180	82,100	271,000	85,400	282,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	3	28	--	--	3	28
Dominican Republic	7	20	37	109	--	--	43	130
France	--	19	1,100	4,630	2	4	1,100	4,660
Germany	6	72	946	3,620	8	88	960	3,780
Hong Kong	291	771	566	2,690	1,520	6,730	2,380	10,200
India	50	130	87	206	553	2,410	690	2,740
Israel	61	325	267	992	--	--	328	1,320
Italy	(2)	2	531	1,470	--	--	532	1,470
Japan	2,160	3,800	1,630	6,150	3,140	16,600	6,930	26,600
Korea, Republic of	129	394	883	4,360	7,310	40,800	8,320	45,500
Malaysia	--	3	239	705	205	1,520	444	2,220
Mexico	15,100	69,200	20,900	90,000	10,600	33,500	46,500	193,000
Netherlands	8	49	115	252	4	44	128	345
Russia	160	165	2	30	--	--	162	195
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2,880	9,720	--	(2)	2,880	9,720
Singapore	4	22	188	597	--	--	192	619
Spain	9	16	99	467	7	7	115	490
Sweden	--	1	9	35	--	--	9	36
Taiwan	41	116	1,090	3,400	7,170	19,800	8,300	23,300
Thailand	179	597	487	3,070	2,970	4,650	3,630	8,310
Ukraine	--	--	1	2	--	--	1	2
United Kingdom	31	99	1,230	6,800	--	104	1,260	7,000
Venezuela	--	13	51	434	--	1	51	448
Other	594	2,100	3,430	13,800	5,550	17,800	9,570	33,800
Total	29,400	126,000	79,600	327,000	133,000	459,000	242,000	912,000

-- Zero.

[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[2]Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.